

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include corrections to Figs. 1 and 3-5. The sheet which includes Fig. 1 replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1. In Figure 1, previously omitted numeral 106 has been added. The sheets which include Figs. 3, 4, and 5 replace the original sheets including Figs. 3, 4, and 5, respectively. In each of Figures 3, 4 and 5, reference numerals 310a and 312a, which are actually the additional gears 314 and 316, respectively, referred to in the specification, are corrected by replacing with the correct numerals 314 and 316, respectively.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

REMARKS/ARGUMENT

Claims 1, 3-5 and 16 remain in the application.

Claim 17 is newly added.

Claim 2 is cancelled.

Claims 6-15 were previously withdrawn, without prejudice, as a non-elected group of claims, reserved for prosecution in a divisional application.

1. Election/Restrictions. Claims 6-15, previously withdrawn as being drawn to nonelected groups, are herein listed in their entirety (as per current prosecution practice). Applicant thanks the Examiner for pointing out that Applicant had previously withdrawn (not “cancelled”) the claims of the nonelected groups. Applicant may have mistakenly and unintentionally referred to certain of the nonelected claims by words other than “withdrawn” (e.g., the terms “cancelled, without prejudice” or the like may have appeared in prior correspondence; if so, this was incorrect and unintentional, and should have been and apparently has been correctly understood by the Examiner to mean withdrawn as nonelected). Applicant appreciates that the Examiner correctly understands that any incorrect use of terms was mistaken and unintentional and also that Applicant’s prior and current statements mean and are intended to mean that the nonelected claims have been merely withdrawn, without prejudice, because of prior restriction requirement. Applicant intends to pursue the withdrawn claims in divisional application(s) at an appropriate time.

2. Drawings. In Figure 3, the numerals “310a” and “312a” should have been 314 and 316, respectively, as used in the specification. The Figure has been corrected.

As to Fig. 6 and numeral 602, the specification has been amended to correct the number "600" by replacing it with the correct number 602 used in the drawing.

Grip 106 referred to in the specification is shown in amended Fig. 1. The grip was referenced with the numeral 106 in the original informal drawings filed with the application. The formal drawing in Fig. 1 has been corrected to conform to the original informal drawing, thereby including the reference number 106 in the Figure.

The additional gears 314 and 316 recited in the specification were incorrectly referenced in each of Figs. 3, 4 and 5, as "310a" and "312a", respectively. Each of Figs. 3, 4 and 5 is amended by correcting the 310a and 312a numbers with the correct number references 314 and 316, respectively.

3. Specification. On page 7, the use of "cleaning element 109b" in line 14 was in correct. Applicant corrected the number reference to state "cleaning element 100".

On page 13, line 8 the terms have been corrected to state "gear rack 308".

On page 14, line 11, the phrase has been amended to read "mid-portion 313" to correct minor editorial problems.

On page 18, line 11, the term "swiffer" has been identified as a registered trademark of Procter & Gamble for a particular duster implement of that company. Although the term is now identified as such trademark, the term as originally used was intended to include the particular products of Procter & Gamble so identified and also similar types of duster-type implements. Applicant did not earlier realize that the term was trademarked, as the duster-type implements are sometimes casually (although apparently incorrectly) referred to by the public as "swiffer".

4. Claims 1-2 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Brock.

Brock discloses only a central head portion that, via attached hinged side portions that swing up or down, provides extension of the cleaning element to finite width and only by the up and down swing movement of the side portions.

Applicant's amended claim 1 is written to incorporate the limitation originally stated in dependent claim 2, and also to further point out that the head extends and contracts "generally laterally" to selectively cause the cleaning surface width to be to within any width of the entire range to and including the fully extended width and the fully contracted width.

5. Claims 1-4 and 16 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Bailey.

Bailey discloses only a generally V-shaped arrangement of dual bristle heads, where the dual heads can be manipulated to obtain a greater or less distance between the heads at the V-shape (i.e., upper part of the V-shape, but the forward end of the Bailey system). Bailey can not provide any generally lateral extension/contraction of the cleaning surface throughout a range from fully extended to fully contracted. In fact, each of the dual bristle heads of Bailey provide the same width of cleaning surface, i.e., the width of each of the dual heads – notwithstanding the extent of the distance between heads of the V-shape. Solely the *angle at which the heads are passed over* a surface during cleaning is changeable.

Applicant's amended claims, however, describe a lateral extension and contraction of the cleaning surface, itself (i.e., via the extension and contraction generally laterally in width).

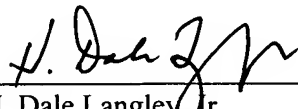
Appl. No. 10/653,801
Amdt. Dated March 28, 2006
Reply to Office Action of November 28, 2005

No new matter is added by the amendments.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments, the undersigned attorney for Applicant respectfully requests a call to discuss any issues. The Office is authorized to charge any excess fees or to credit any overage to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-1350.

Respectfully submitted,

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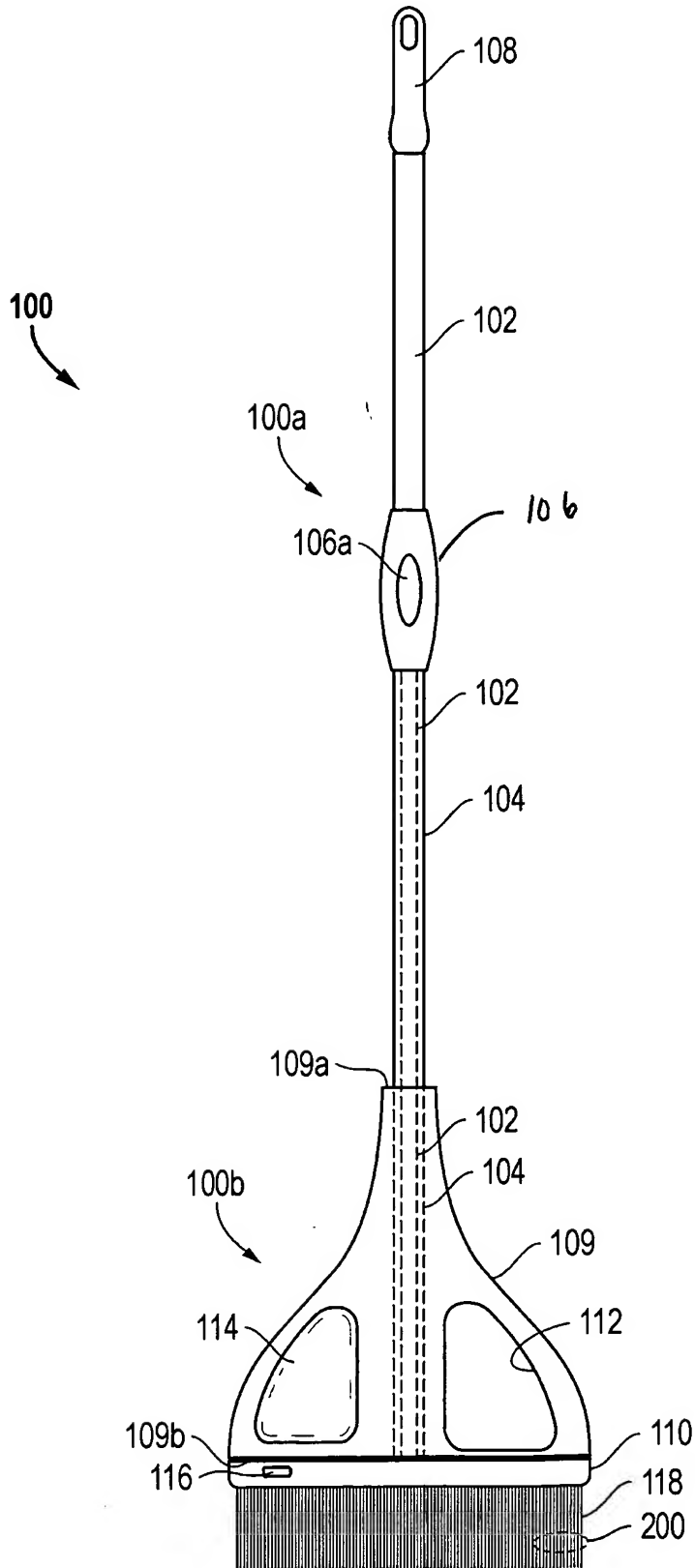


FIG. 1

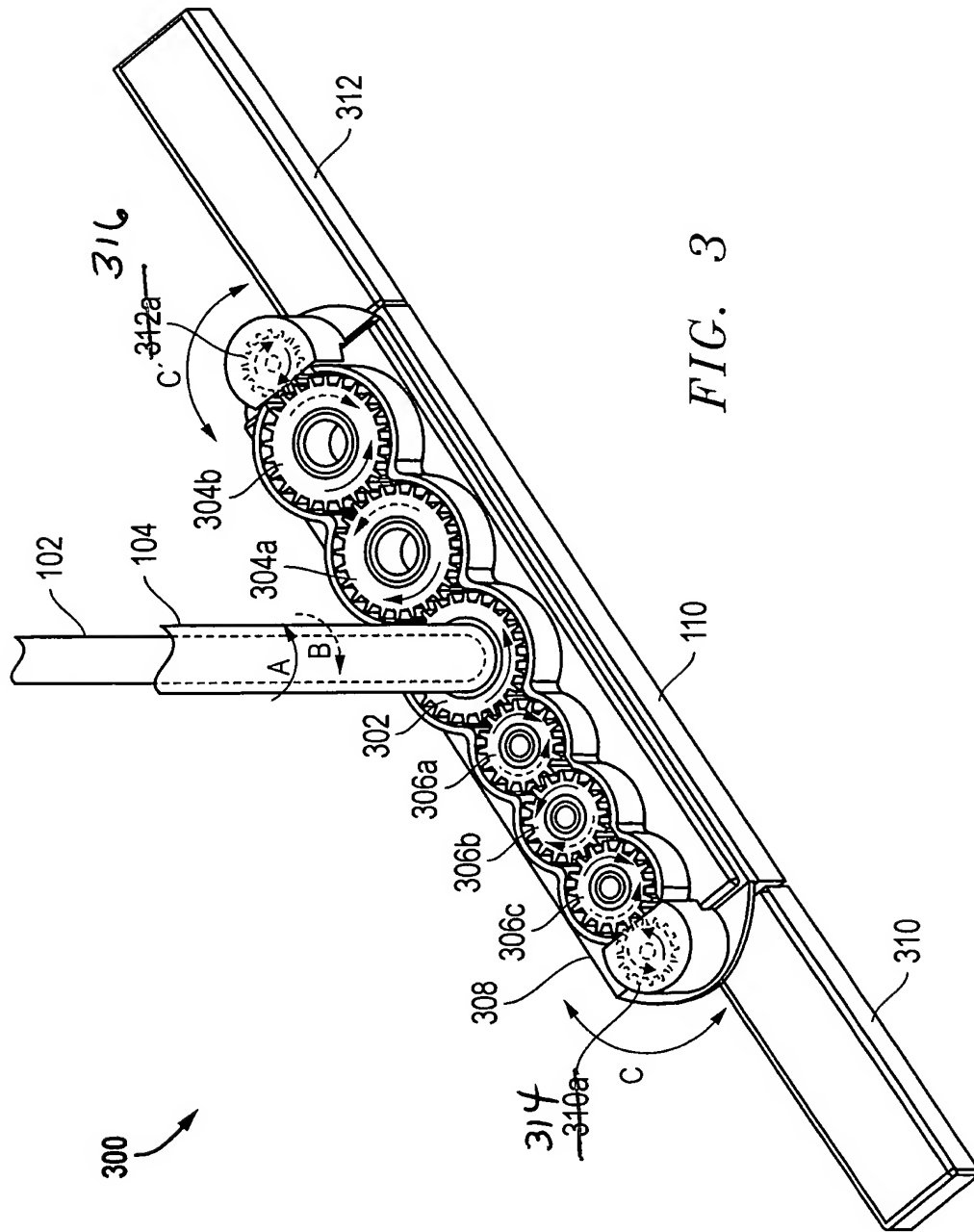


FIG. 3

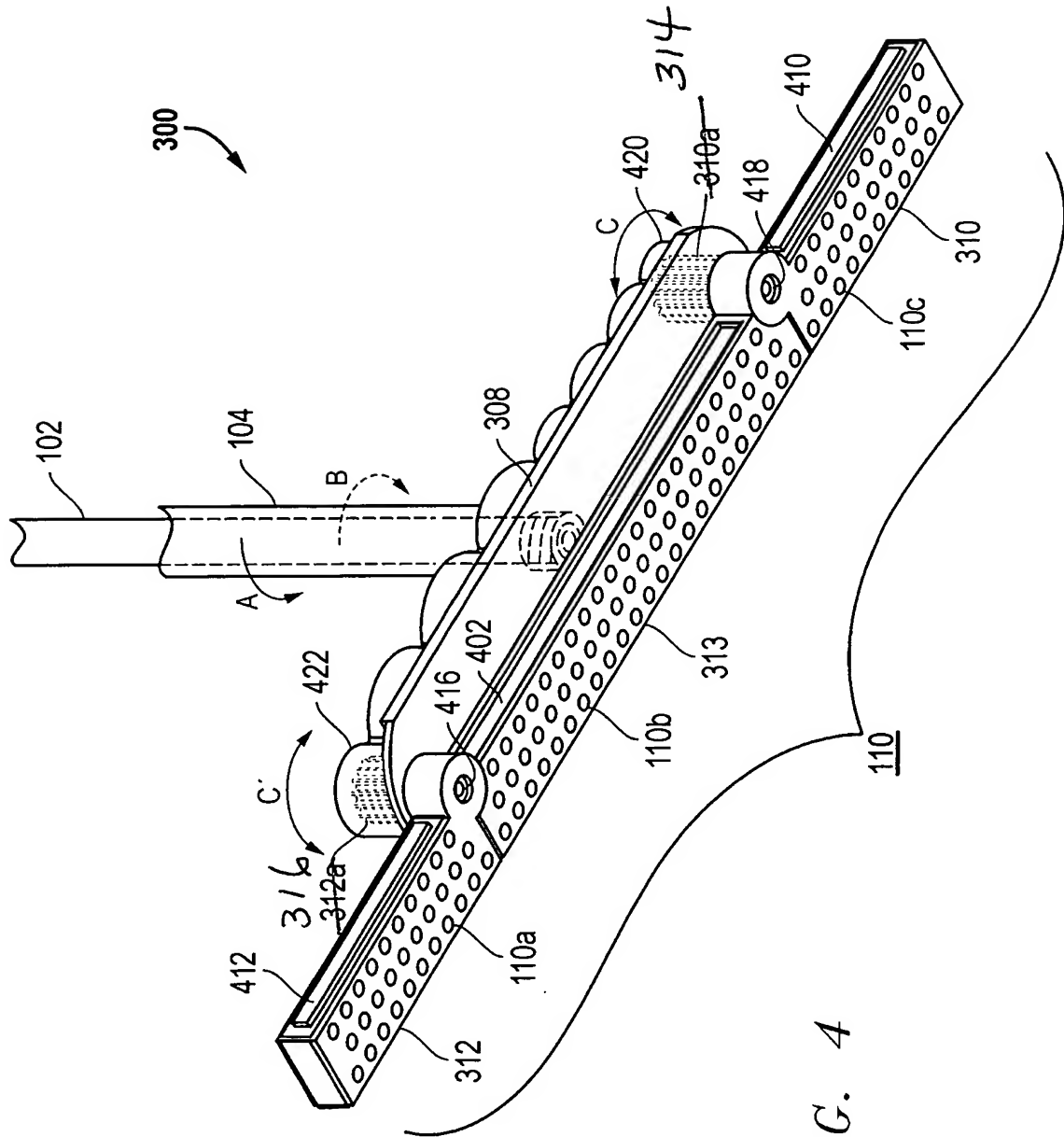


FIG. 4

